THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During this visit to India to India from October 18—20, 2004, China's State Councillor, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan held talks with External Affairs Minister. The Chinese leader also called on Prime Minister and met National Security Advisor. During these meetings, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional and global issues. The two sides agreed to move the relations forward on a constructive agenda and to continuously expand and develop further areas of cooperation, while seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to outstanding issues, including the boundary question. The Chinese side conveyed that China supports a bigger role for India in the international community, including in the United Nations Security Council.

Another Chinese delegation led by the Governor of China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Mr. Ismail Tiliwaldi visited India from October 9-15, 2004. During the visit, views were exchanged on prospects for cooperation between India and Xinjiang in the field of trade and commerce, civil aviation, agriculture tourism and culture.

Mechanism to Monitor the National Floor Level Wage

1508. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national floor level wage is violated in many States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such violations for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the implementation of the national floor level wage;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal for deciding a national benchmark for minimum wages; and

(g) if so, the details thereof including the action taken for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (g) With a view to bring uniformity in the minimum

wages throughout the country the Central Government has floated the concept of national floor level minimum wage. The national floor level minimum wage, though non-statutory, acts like a benchmark. The State Governments/Unions Territories are persuaded from time to time to fix minimum wage in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions not below the national floor level minimum wage. However, inability to reach the national floor level minimum wage can not be constructed as a violation.

Contract Labour in Delhi Airport

1509. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry vide its notification No. S.O. 848(E) dated 26th July, 2004 has prohibited the employment of contract labour in the job of trolley retrieval by Airport Authority of India (AAI) in Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, whether the order is being implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether AAI had approached the High Powered Committee established by Government pursuant to order of the Supreme Court dated 11th September, 1991, before obtaining stay, if any, on the above notification?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Notification No. S.O. 848(E) dated, 26th July, 2004 issued by the Ministry of Labour & Employment prohibiting employment of contract labour in the job of Trolley Retrieval in the establishment of the Airport Authority of India at Indira Gandhi International Airport and domestic Airport at Delhi has been challenged by the management of Airport Authority of India before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by way of civil writ petition No. 13953/2004. The Hon'ble Court vide order dated, 23.08.2004 has stayed the operation of the Notification. The Airport Authority of India have not approached the High Powered Committee before challenging the notification-dated 26.7.2004 in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.